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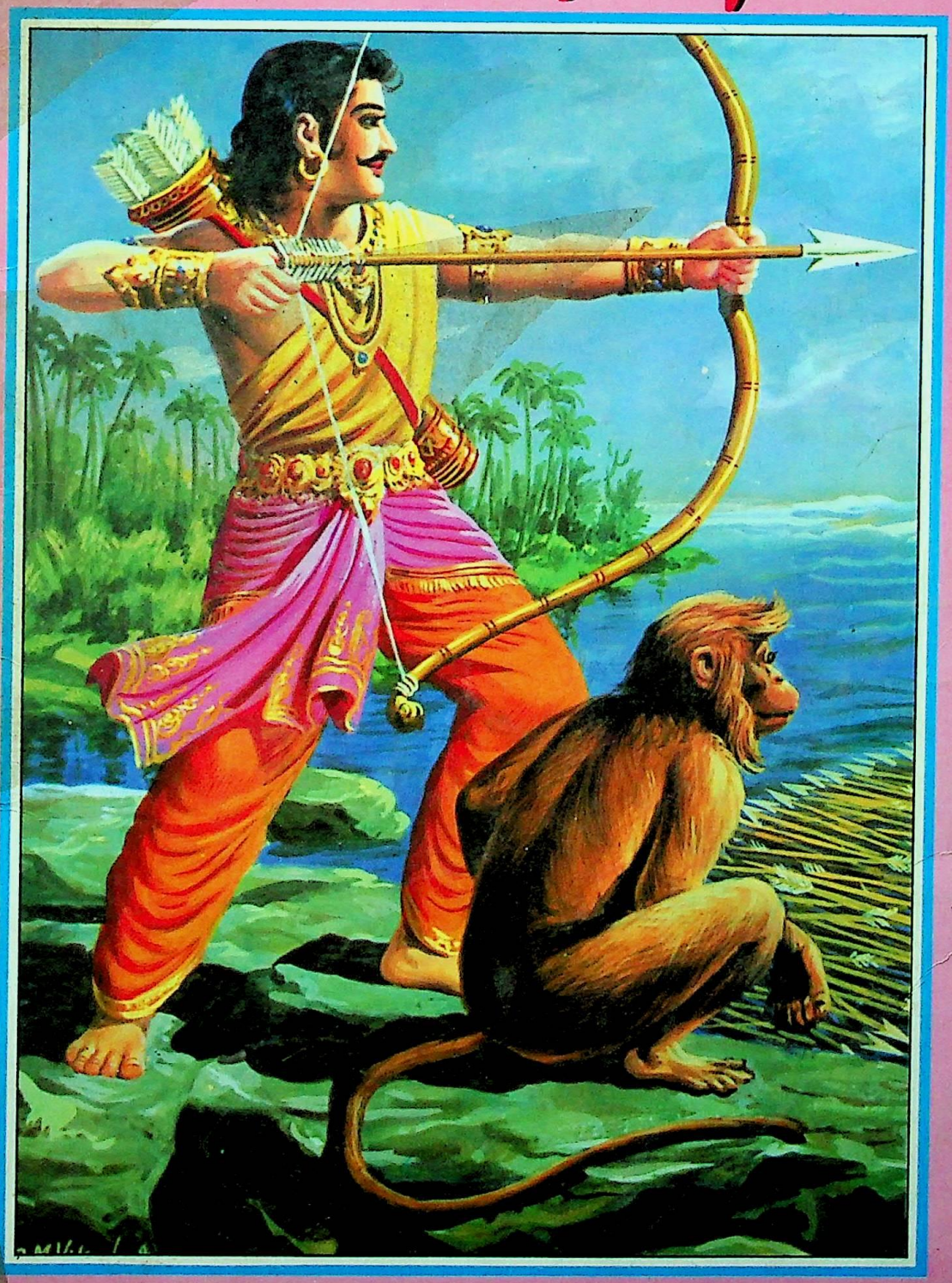
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Tales of Arjuna

Vol. 525 Rs. 25



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Tales of Arjuna

Arjuna was as devoted to Krishna as Hanuman was to Rama. Our first story, which is based on a folktale popular in South India, is about the encounter between Arjuna and Hanuman both of whom come to realise that Rama and Krishna are one and the same.

Arjuna was trained by Drona, the master of archery, and he acquired powerful weapons by propitiating the gods. But the weapon that made him invincible was his mighty bow, Gandiva, which he obtained from Agni.

Arjuna and his cousin, Krishna, were inseparable, and it was to Krishna that he always turned for guidance. In the battle of Kurukshetra, Krishna acted as Arjuna's charioteer.

There were, however, occasions when Arjuna became vain and boastful. The third story shows how Krishna gently, but firmly, corrected Arjuna on such occasions.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
Over 78 million copies sold so far.

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Artworks: C.M. Vitankar

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Ganesh Mukundan

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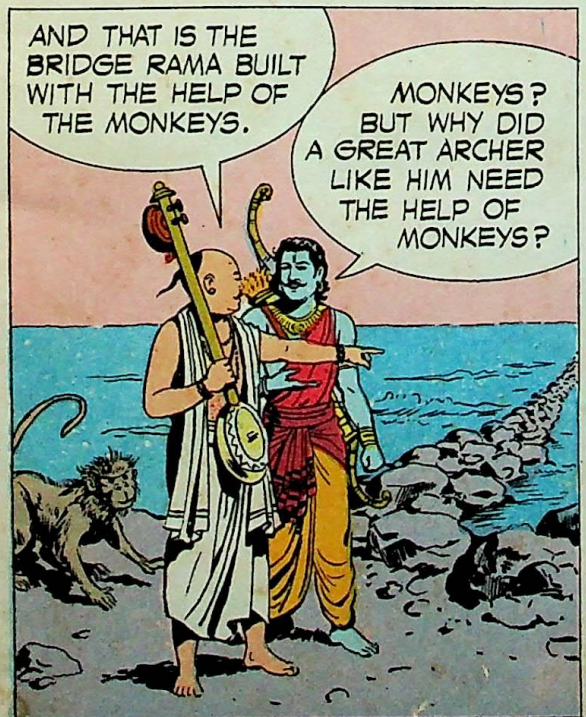
ARJUNA, THE MONKEY AND THE BOY

ONCE, WHILE ARJUNA WAS ON A PILGRIMAGE TO VARIOUS HOLY PLACES, HE CAME TO RAMESWARAM.*



* IN COASTAL TAMIL NADU

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THE BRAHMAN WENT HIS WAY BUT. A MONKEY, WHICH WAS FOLLOWING ARJUNA, BURST OUT LAUGHING.

HA! HA! HO! HO! HA!

SURPRISED, ARJUNA TURNED ROUND—

A BRIDGE OF ARROWS WOULD HAVE COLLAPSED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE MONKEYS!

ARJUNA WAS A LITTLE ANNOYED BY THE MONKEY'S AUDACITY.

MERE MONKEYS COULD BREAK A BRIDGE OF MIGHTY RAMA'S ARROWS! IMPOSSIBLE! WHY, NO MONKEY COULD CRUSH A BRIDGE OF EVEN MY ARROWS!

I CHALLENGE THAT! A BRIDGE MADE WITH YOUR ARROWS WON'T WITHSTAND EVEN MY WEIGHT, PUNY AS I AM.

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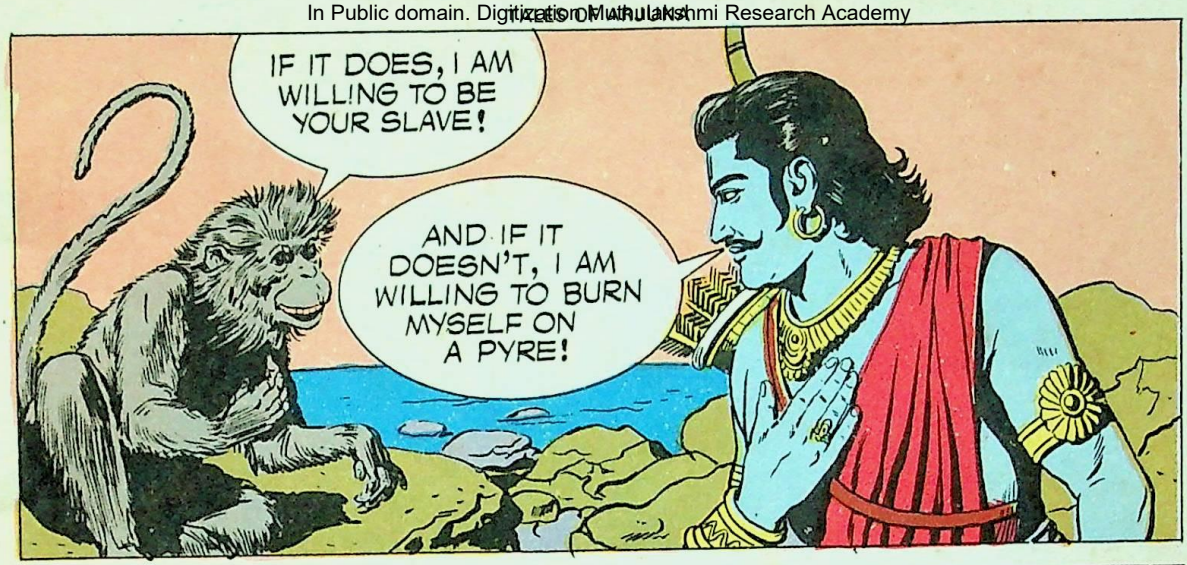

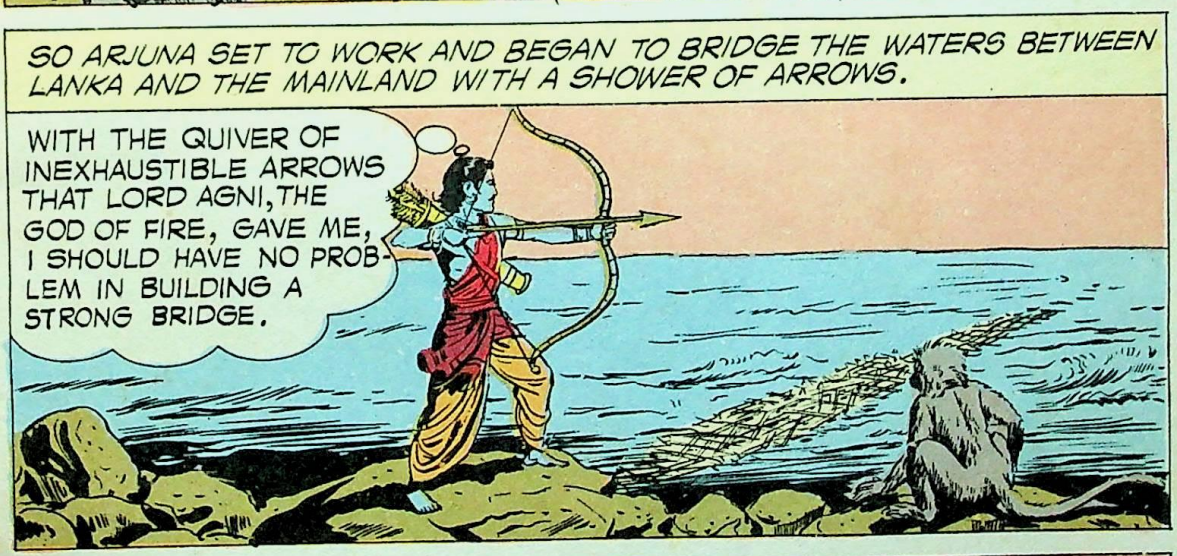

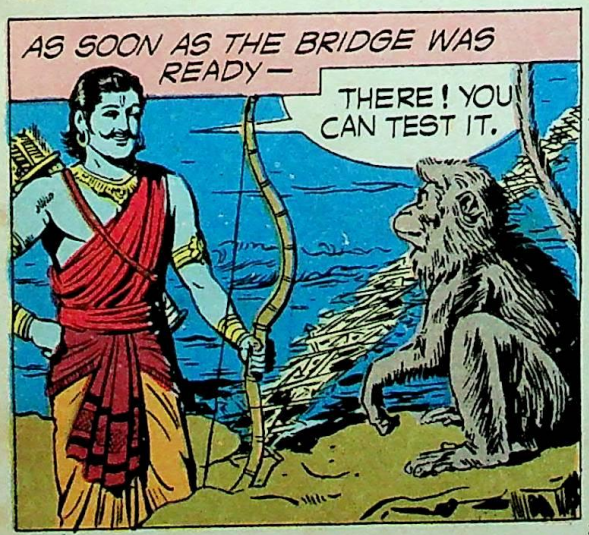

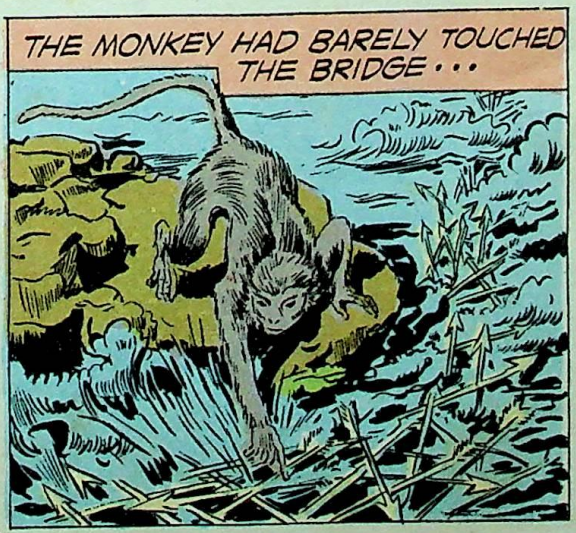

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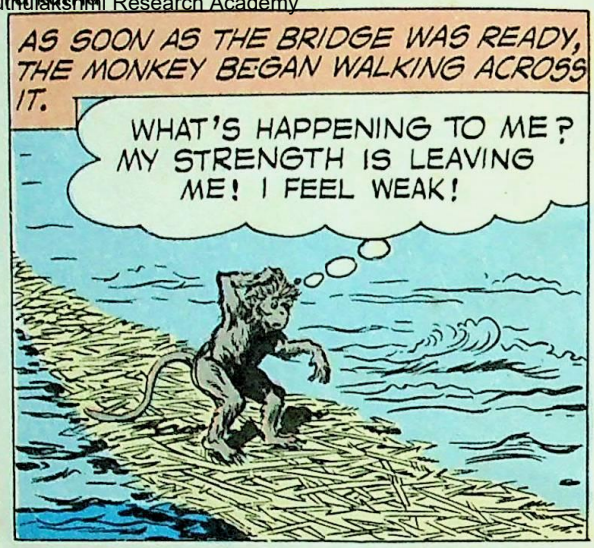

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... AND JUMPED UP AND DOWN ON THE BRIDGE.

WHAT! THE BRIDGE STILL STANDS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! ONLY KRISHNA.... WHY, OF COURSE THE BOY IS KRISHNA!

AT THE SAME MOMENT, THE MONKEY, TOO, REALISED THE TRUTH.

WHAT A VAIN FOOL I HAVE BEEN. OF COURSE IT IS THE LORD HIMSELF!

RAMA!

KRISHNA!

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AND LO! IN THE PLACE OF THE BOY STOOD LORD VISHNU.

YES IT IS I! BOTH OF YOU NEEDED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON IN HUMILITY. YOU, ARJUNA, WERE TOO VAIN.

AND YOU, HANUMAN, WERE TOO PROUD OF YOUR STRENGTH.

HANUMAN, TO FULFIL THE CONDITIONS OF YOUR WAGER YOU SHALL BE ON ARJUNA'S FLAG.

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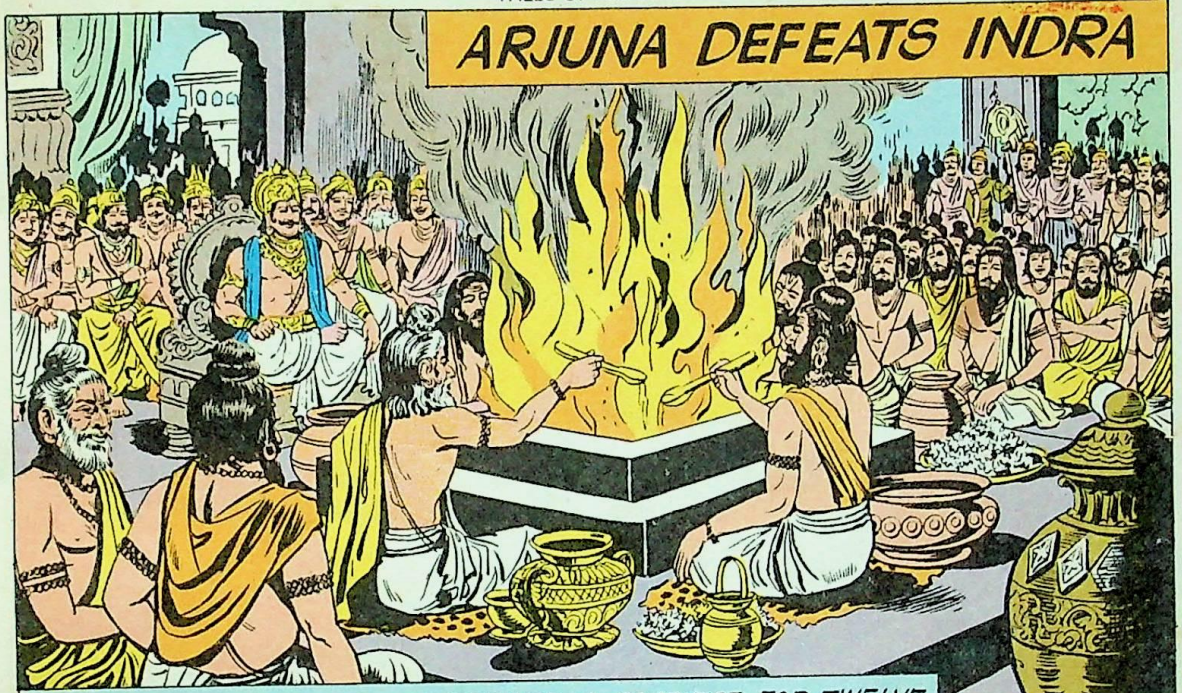
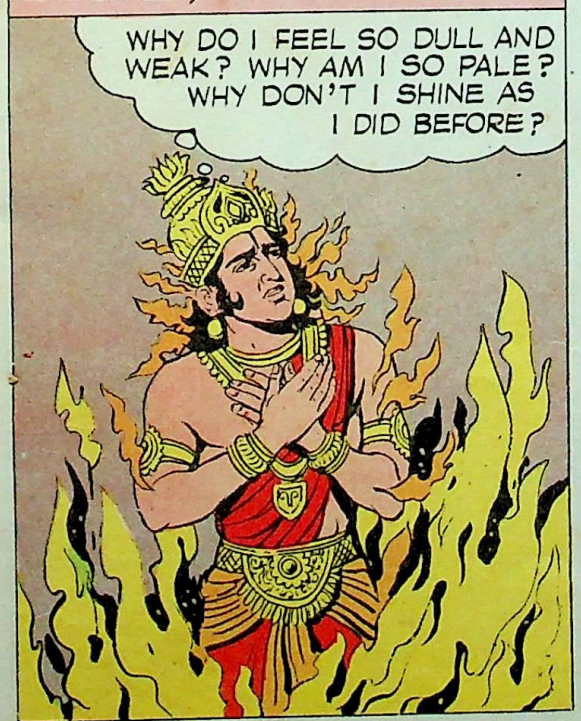
ARJUNA DEFEATS INDRA



A CERTAIN KING ONCE PERFORMED A SACRIFICE FOR TWELVE LONG YEARS, DURING WHICH OFFERINGS OF GHEE* WERE CONTINUOUSLY MADE TO AGNI.

WHEN AT LAST THE SACRIFICE WAS COMPLETED, AGNI WAS PERTURBED.



HE WENT TO THE ABODE OF BRAHMA.

* CLARIFIED BUTTER

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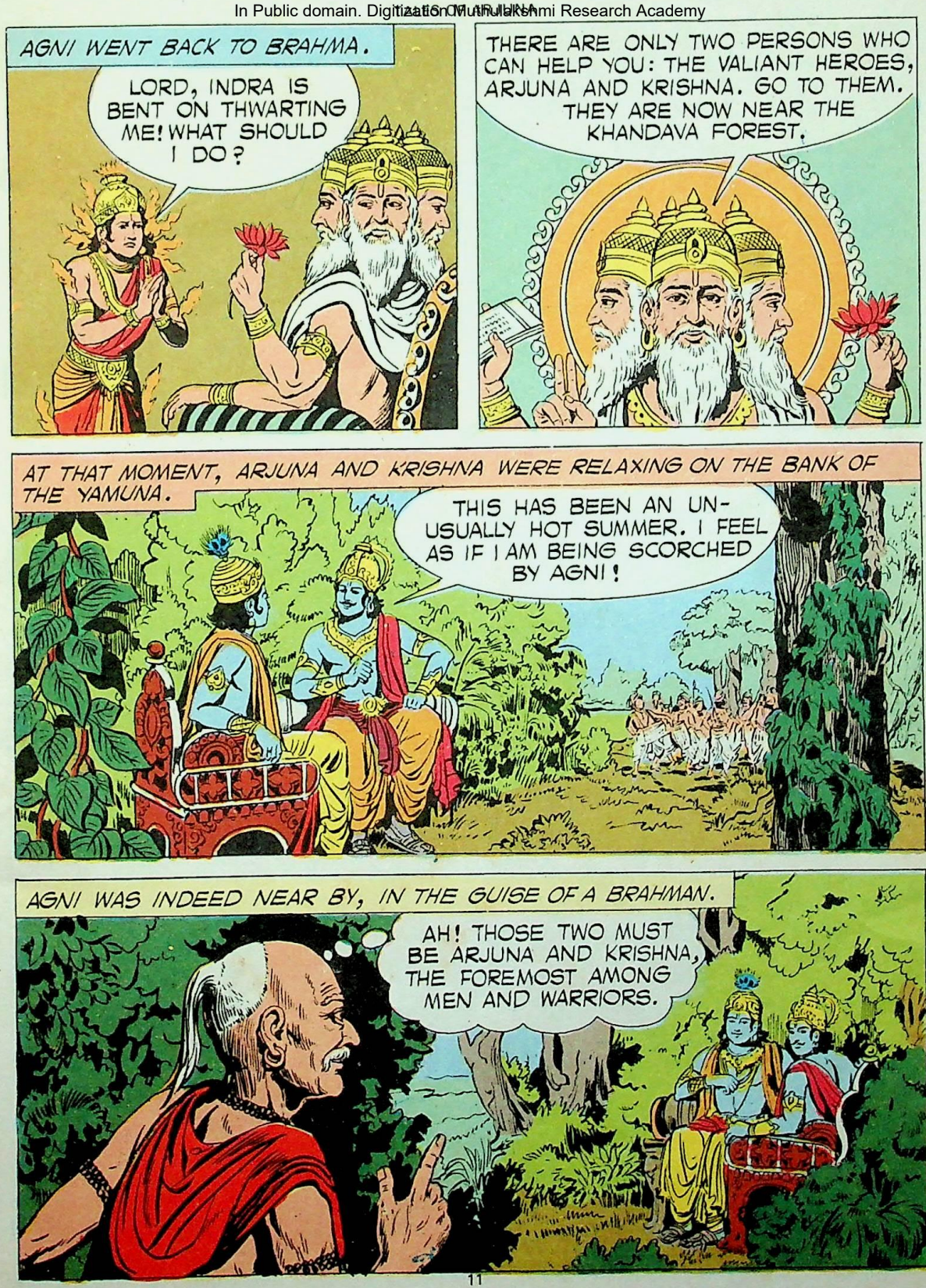

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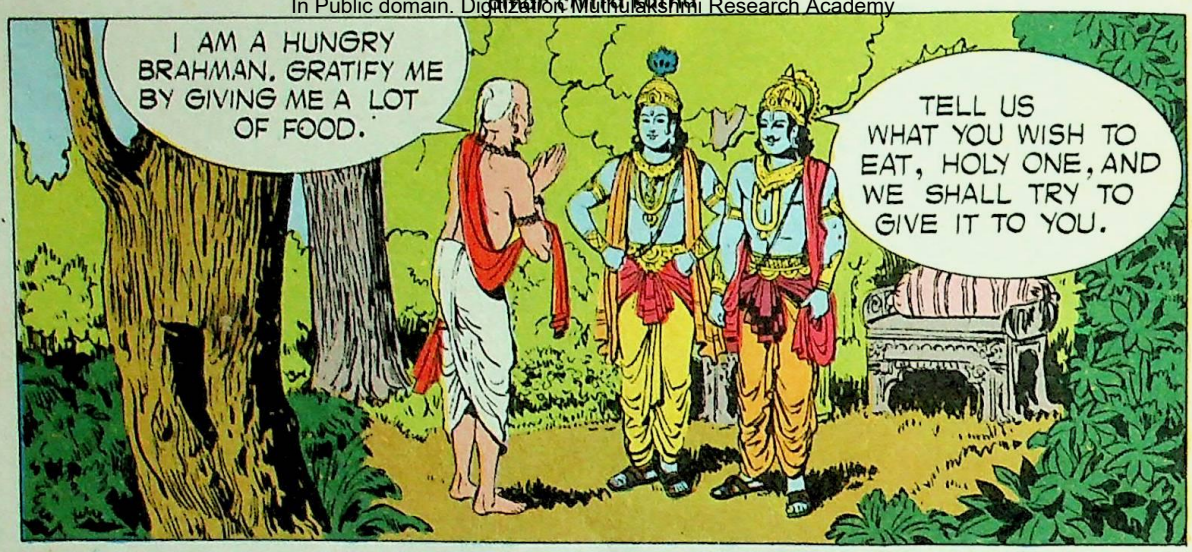

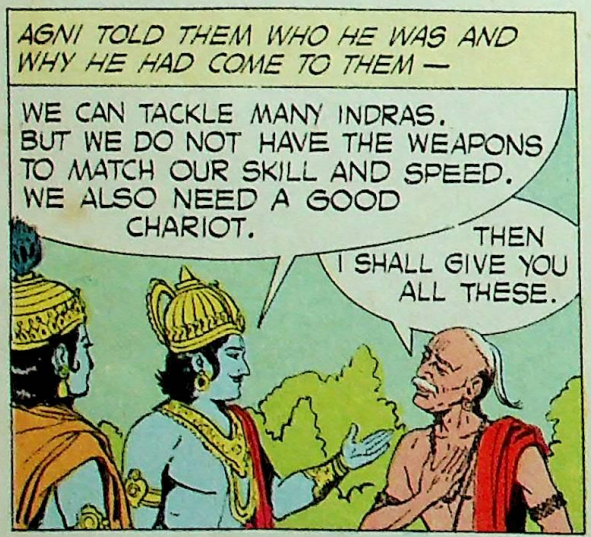

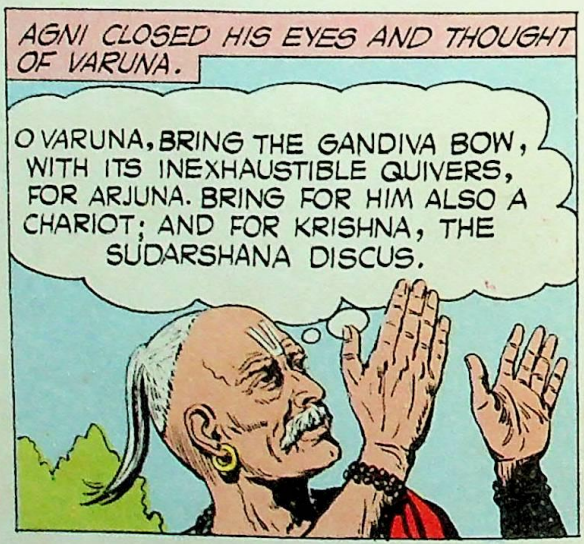

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URGED ON BY THEM, AGNI CHANGED HIS FORM. HE THEN BROKE OUT INTO SEVEN FLAMES AND SURROUNDED THE FOREST, SETTING IT ABLAZE ON ALL SIDES. AS THE FLAMES ROSE HIGH, KRISHNA TURNED TO ARJUNA.

I'LL TAKE ON THE DENIZENS OF THE FOREST AND YOU TAKE ON INDRA AND THE CELESTIALS.

AS THEY POSTED THEMSELVES ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE FOREST, THE SKIES SUDDENLY DARKENED.

THUNDERCLOUDS! INDRA HAS STRUCK AGAIN!

THE NEXT MOMENT THE RAIN CAME DOWN IN TORRENTS.

THE FOREST, CHOKED WITH SMOKE AND STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, WAS FEARFUL TO LOOK AT.

I MUST BE QUICK! AT THIS RATE AGNI WILL BE SMOTHERED.

ARJUNA STOPPED THE SHOWER WITH A SHOWER OF HIS OWN...

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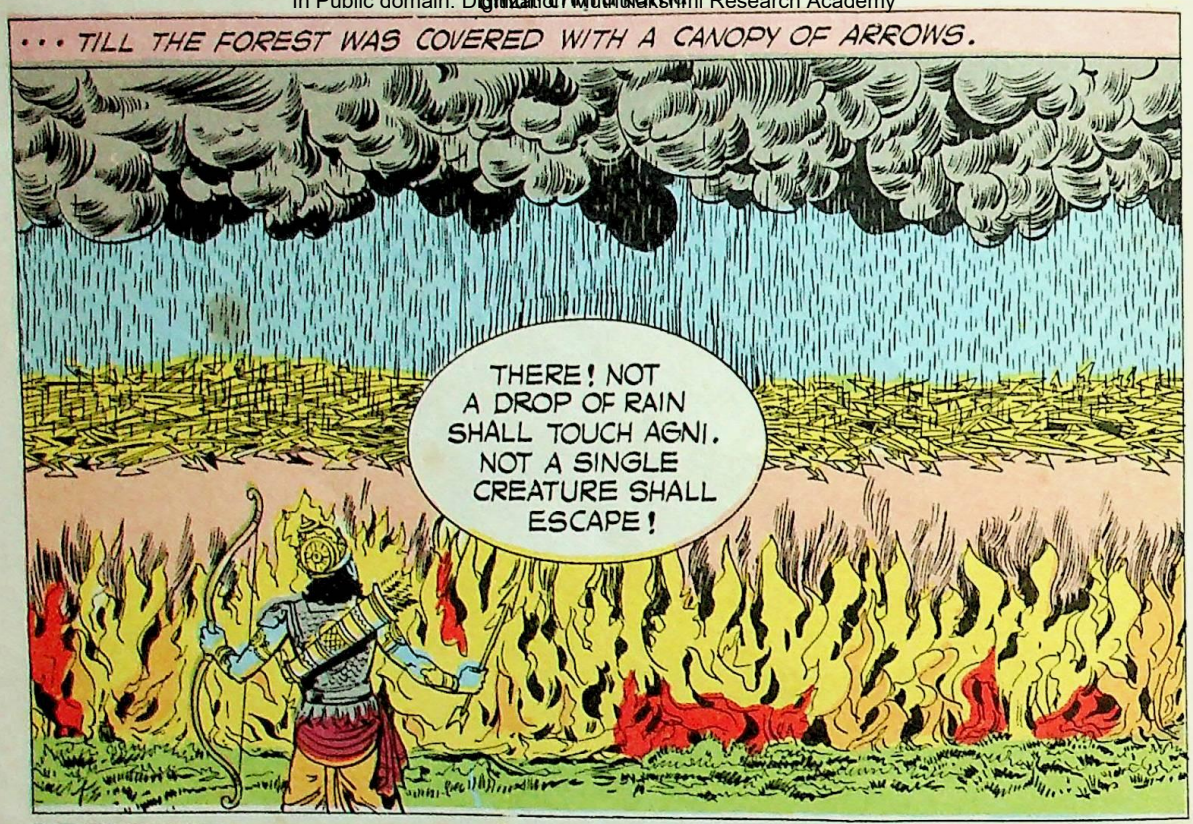

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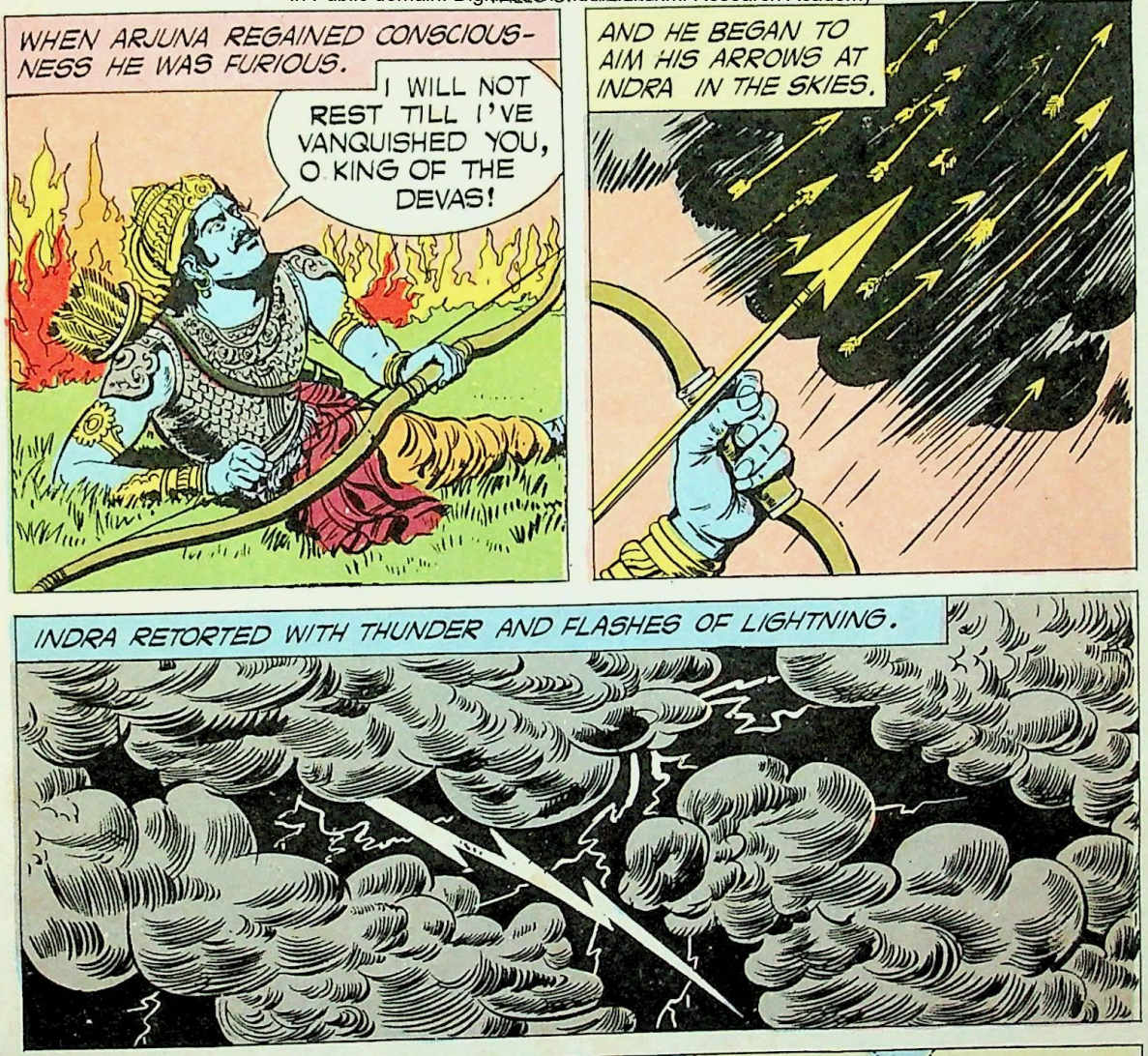

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... THAT THEY RETREATED IN PANIC. INDRA COULD NOT HELP ADMIRING ARJUNA.

MY DEVAS ARE TURNING AWAY IN FEAR! ARJUNA HAS SURPASSED HIMSELF.

BUT, ALL THE SAME, HE SENT DOWN A SHOWER OF STONES.

LET ME SEE THE EXTENT OF YOUR MIGHT.

BUT ARJUNA QUICKLY WARDED OFF THE SHOWER WITH HIS ARROWS.

INDRA THEN TORE UP THE PEAK OF THE MANDARA MOUNTAIN...

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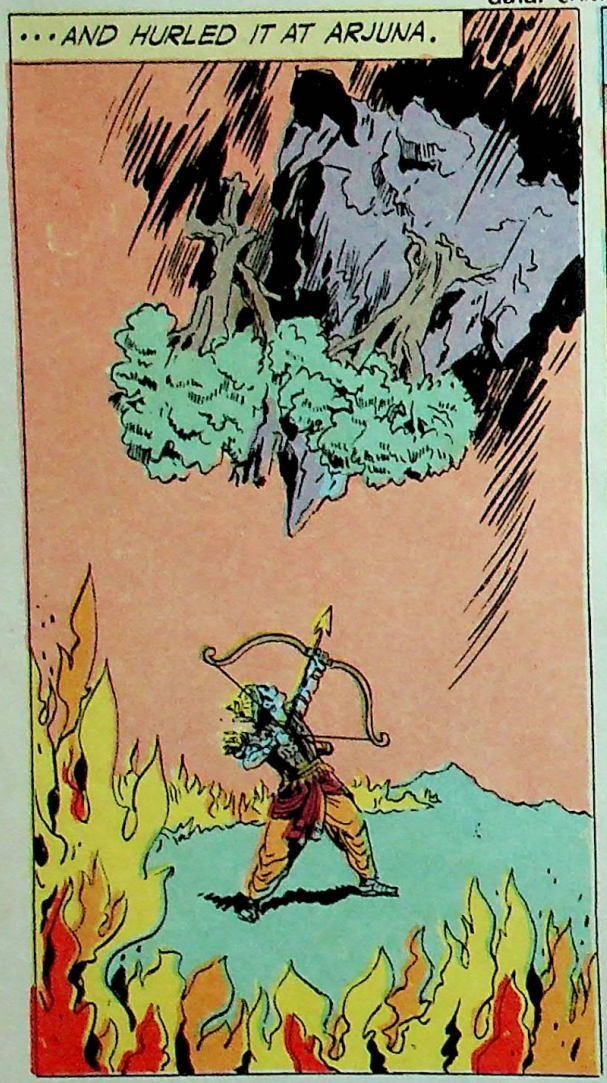

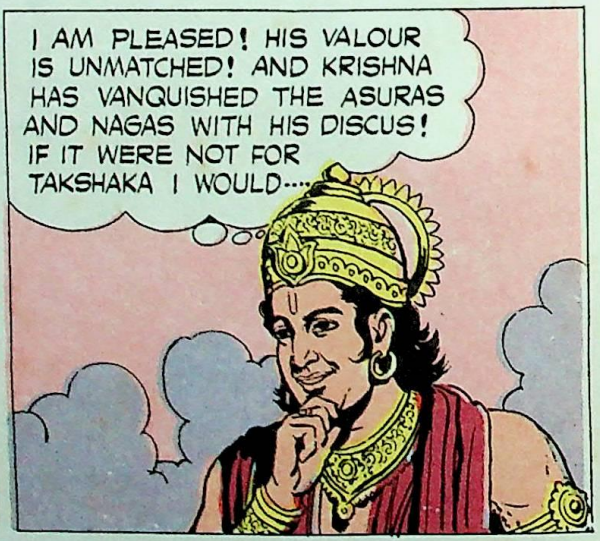

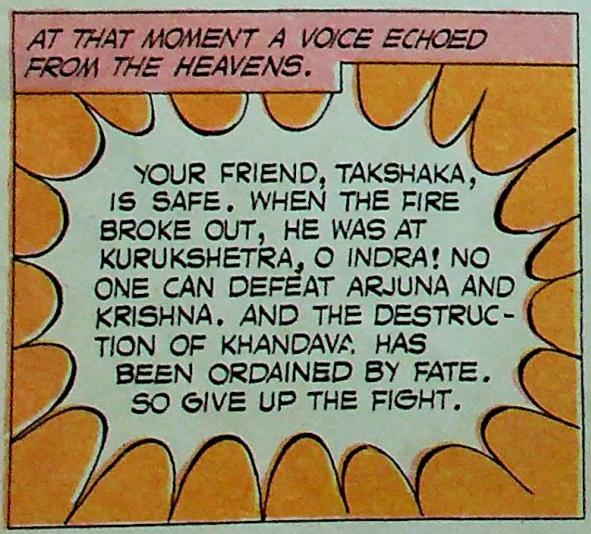

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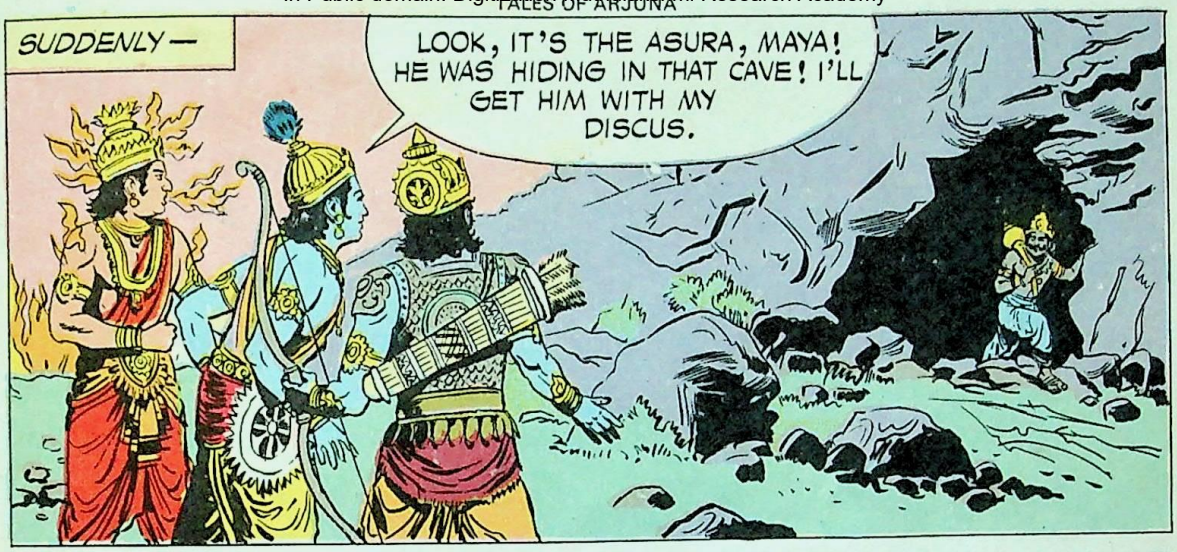

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WHEN QUIET WAS RESTORED, AGNI BLAZED FORTH FOR FIFTEEN DAYS TILL HE REGAINED HIS LOST LUSTRE.

INDRA THEN CAME DOWN—

FOR YOUR VALOUR AND MIGHT, YOU DESERVE A BOON EACH. ASK FOR ONE THAT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO MEN.

BESTOW ALL THE WEAPONS ON ME WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO USE THEM.

MAY MY FRIENDSHIP WITH ARJUNA LAST FOR EVER.

SO BE IT, KRISHNA. AND YOU ARJUNA, SHALL RECEIVE THE WEAPONS WHEN YOU NEED THEM MOST.

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AS INDRA WENT AWAY, IT WAS AGNI'S TURN TO BESTOW A REWARD—

I HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED BY YOU. YOU SHALL, AT MY COMMAND, BE ABLE TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE AT WILL.

WHEN AGNI LEFT, ARJUNA, KRISHNA AND MAYA RELAXED ON THE BANK OF A RIVER.

O ARJUNA, YOU PROTECTED ME FROM THE WRATH OF KRISHNA AND AGNI. TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU.

BE EVER WELL-DISPOSED TO US, MAYA, AS WE ARE TO YOU.

BUT I MUST DO SOMETHING FOR YOU.

WELL, KRISHNA, WHAT CAN WE ASK OF OUR FRIEND?

MAYA, YOU ARE THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE ASURAS. WHY DON'T YOU BUILD A SABHA* FOR YUDHISHTHIRA? BUILD ONE THAT WILL BE UNSURPASSED IN SPLENDOUR.

* HALL

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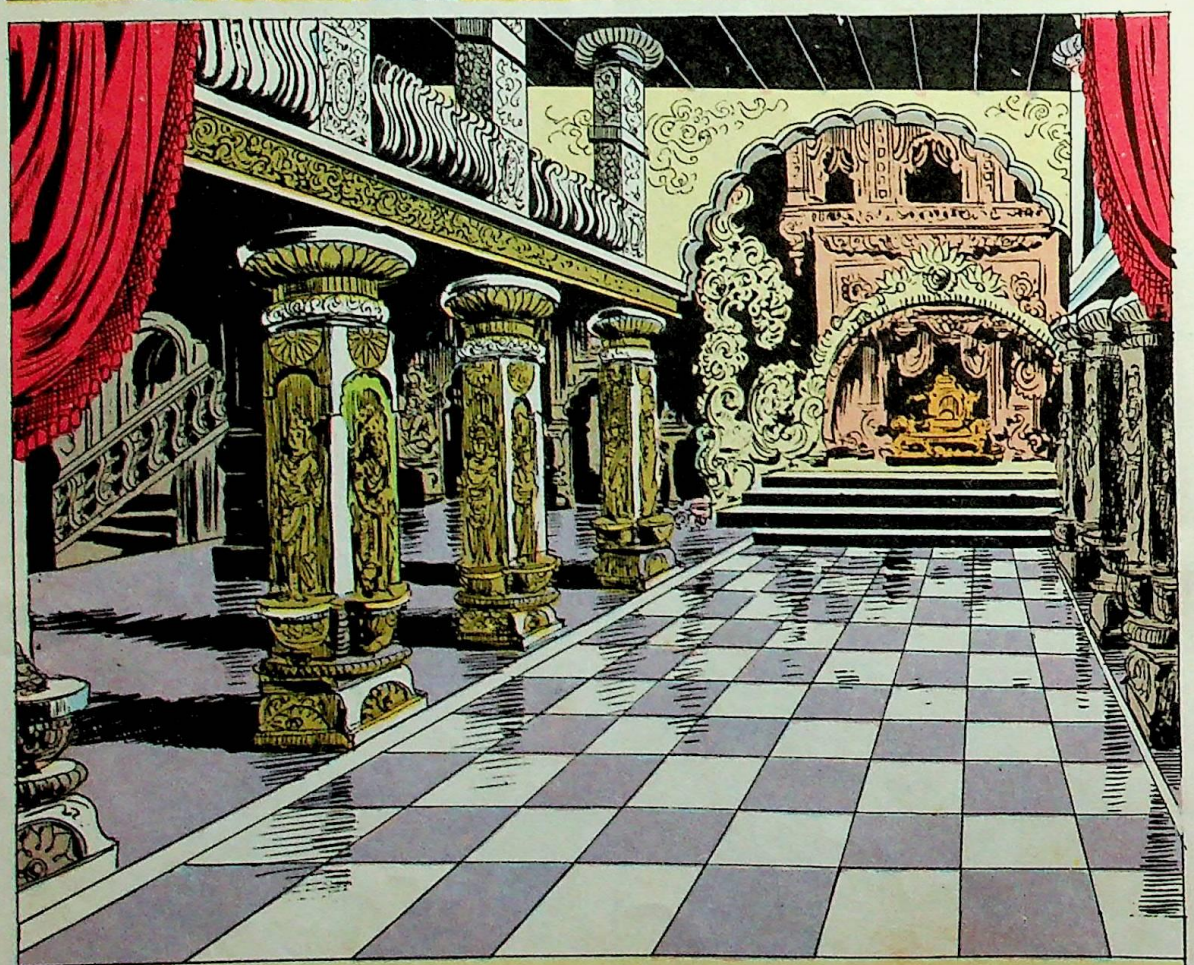

AND THAT WAS HOW YUDHISHTHIRA ACQUIRED THE MAGNIFICENT HALL THAT BECAME THE LAST STRAW FOR HIS ALREADY ENVIOUS COUSINS, THE KAURAVAS, AND INDUCED THEM TO DECEITFULLY DEPRIVE YUDHISHTHIRA OF HIS KINGDOM.

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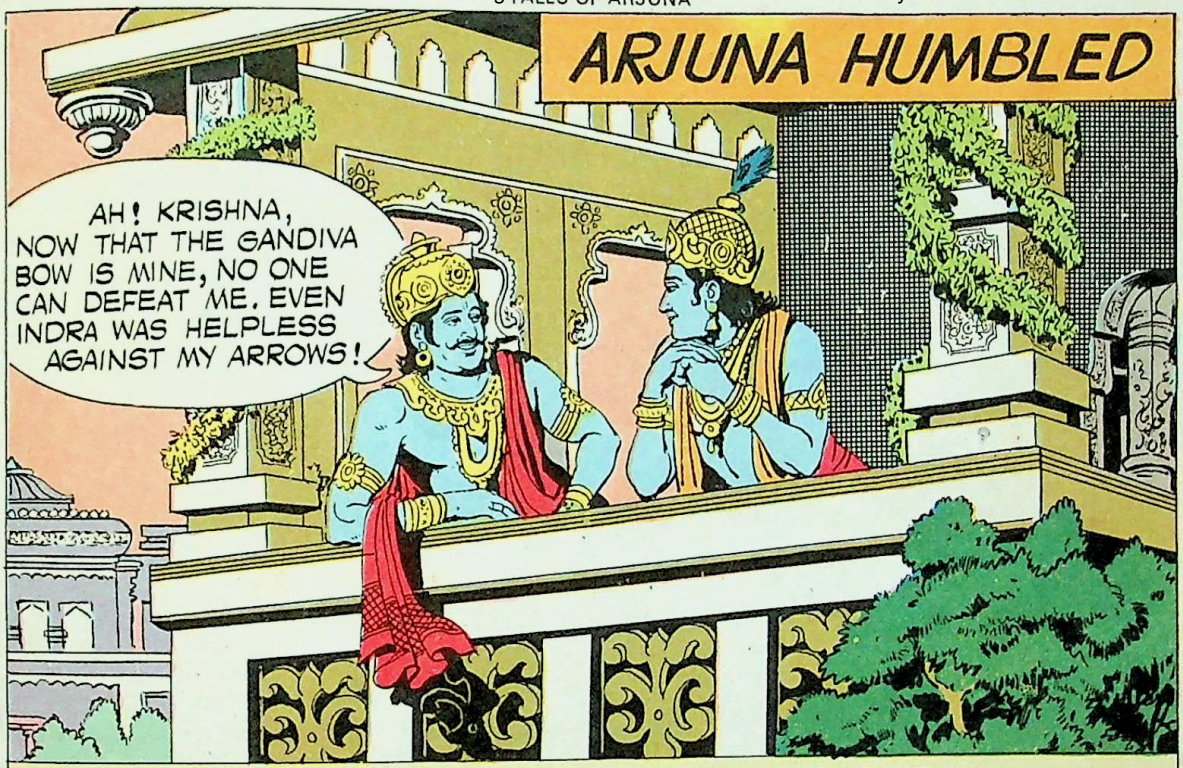
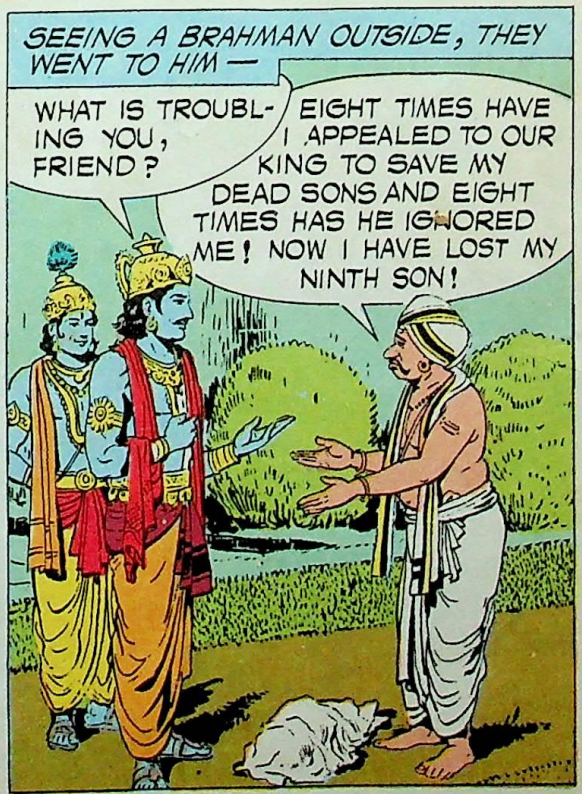
ARJUNA HUMBLED



ARJUNA, THE PANDAVA, HAD COME TO VISIT KRISHNA AT DWARKA.



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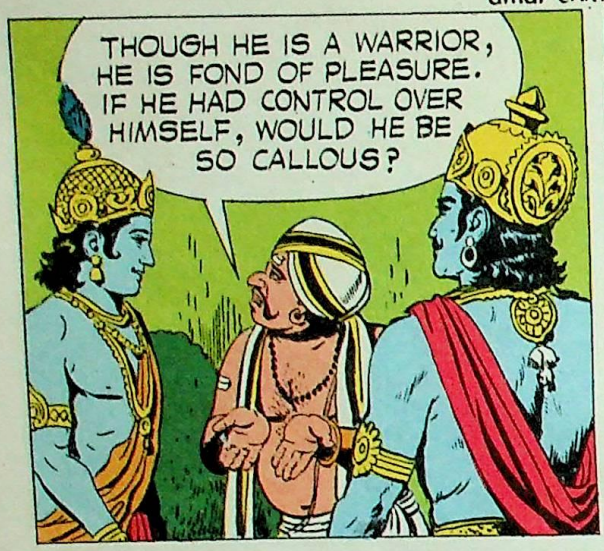

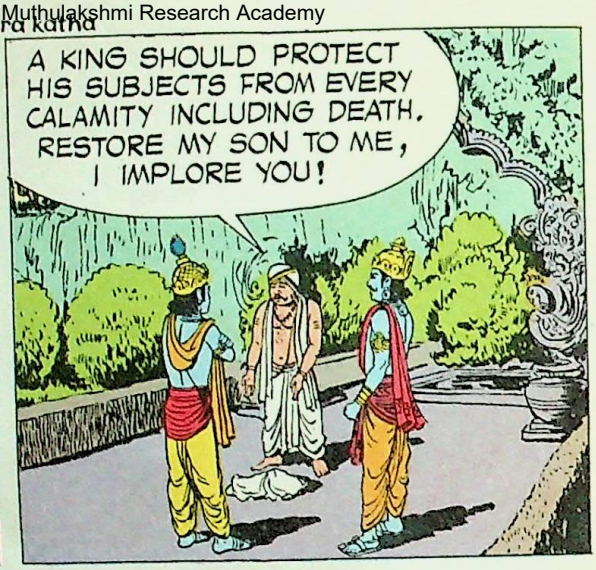

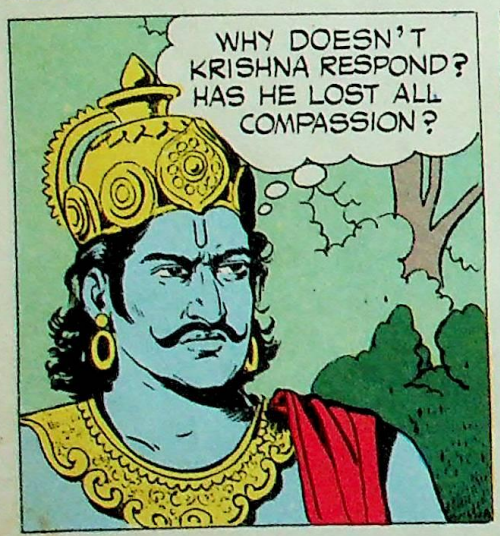

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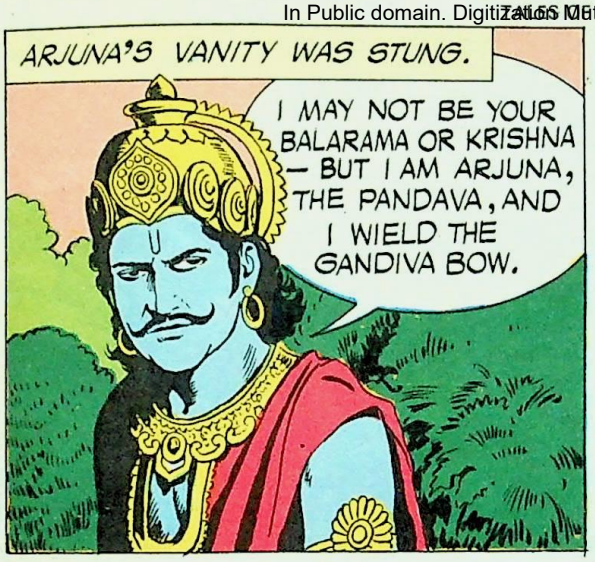

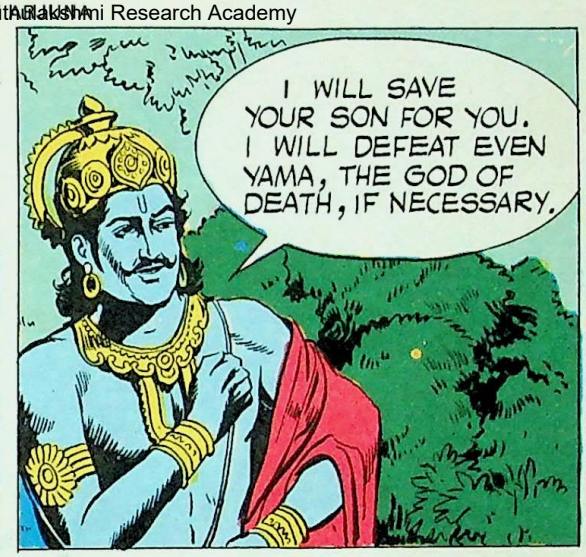

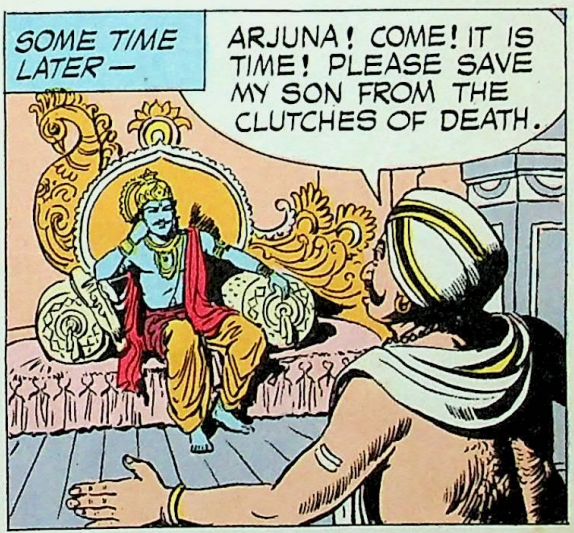

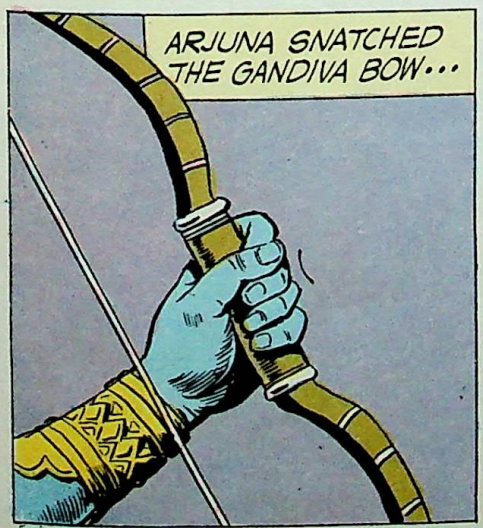

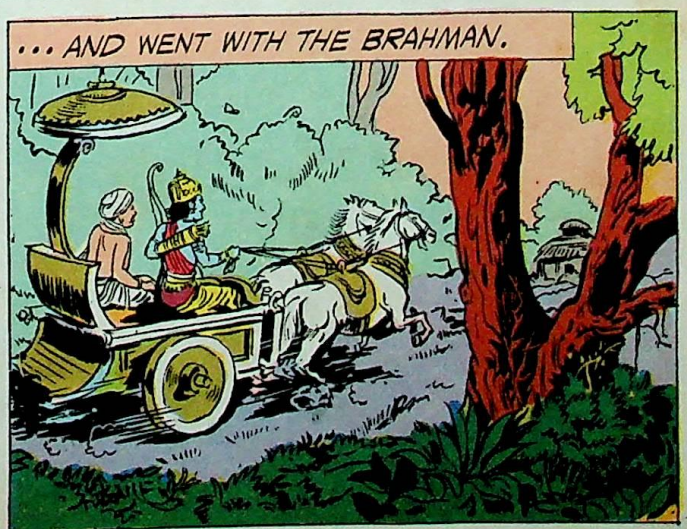

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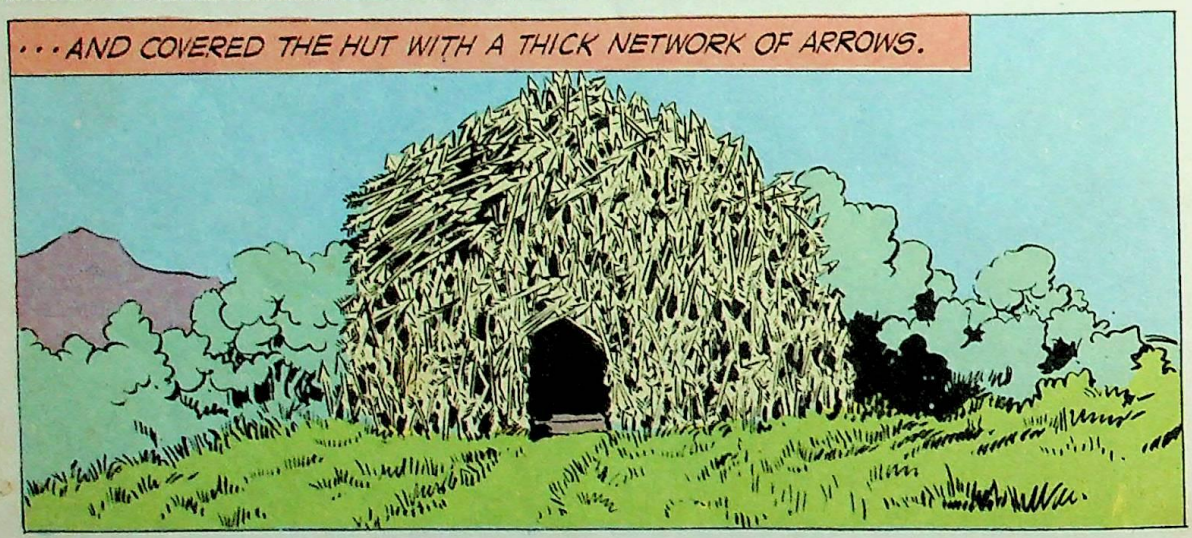

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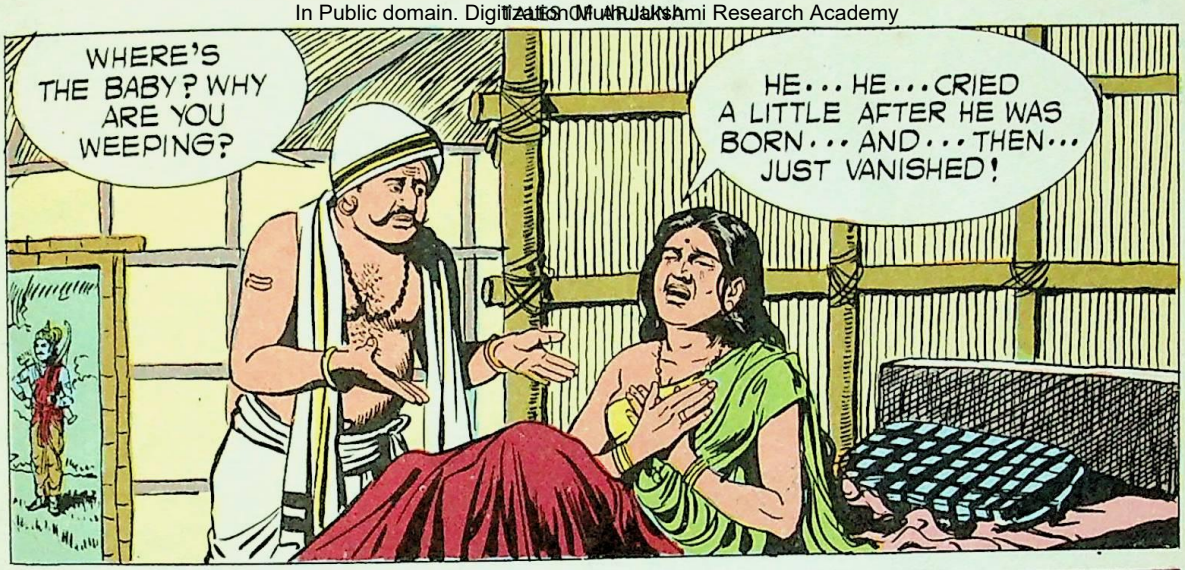

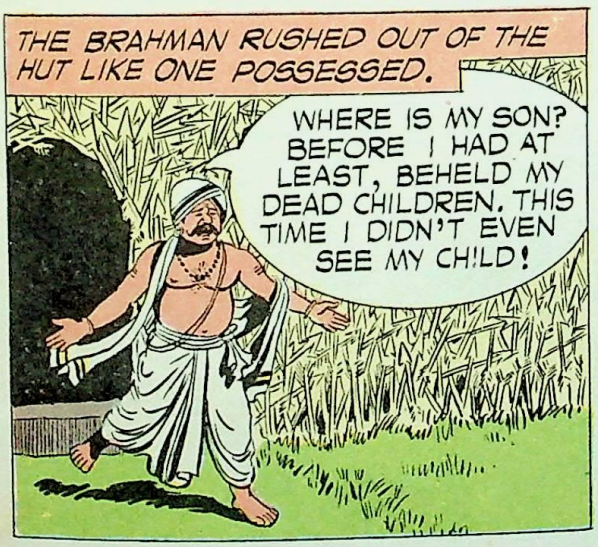

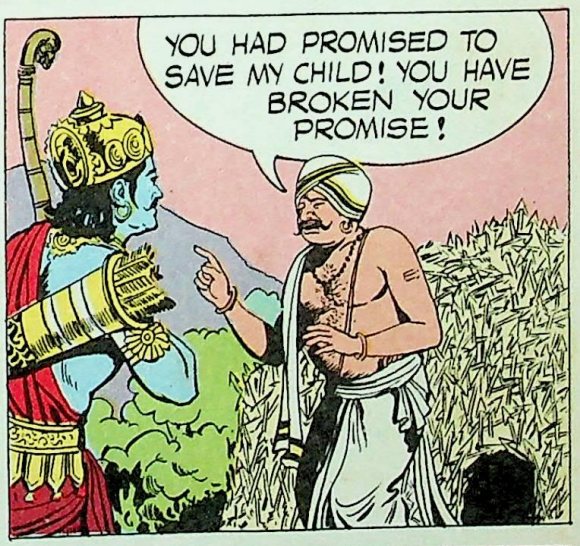

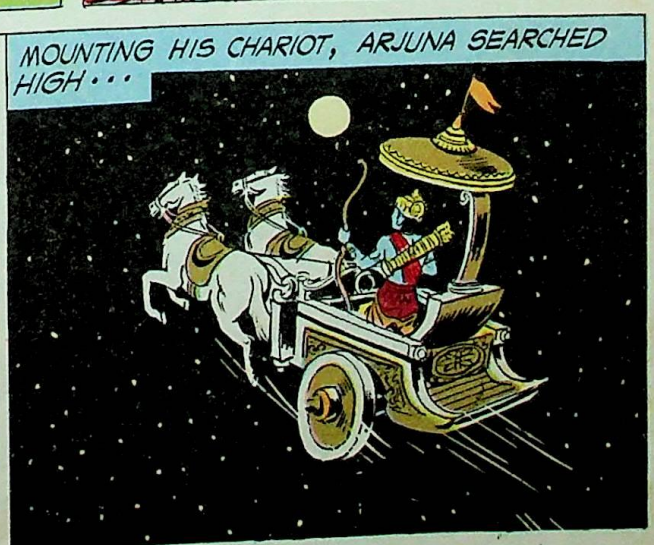

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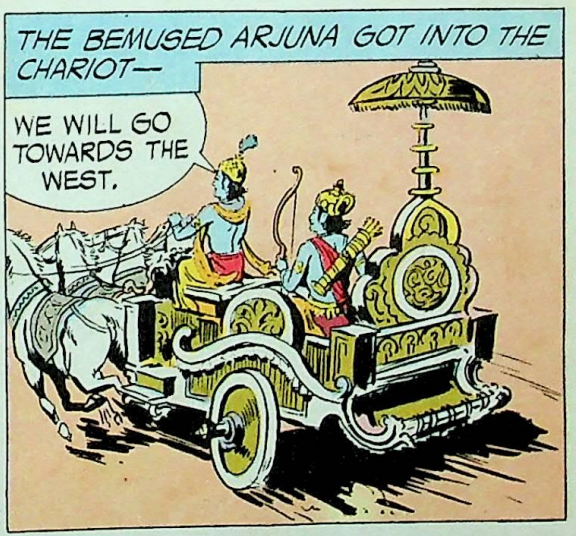

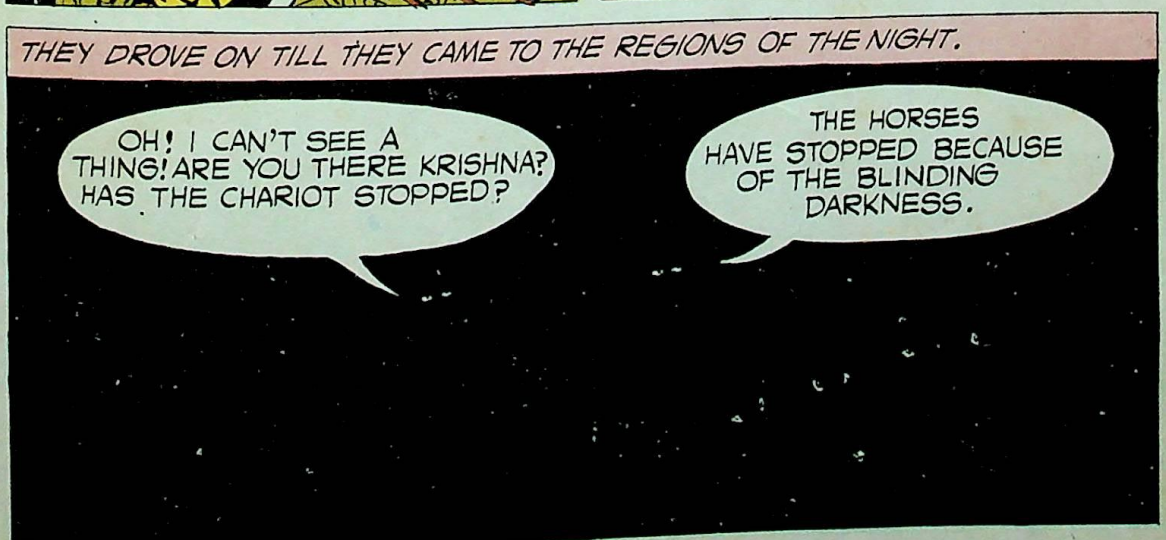

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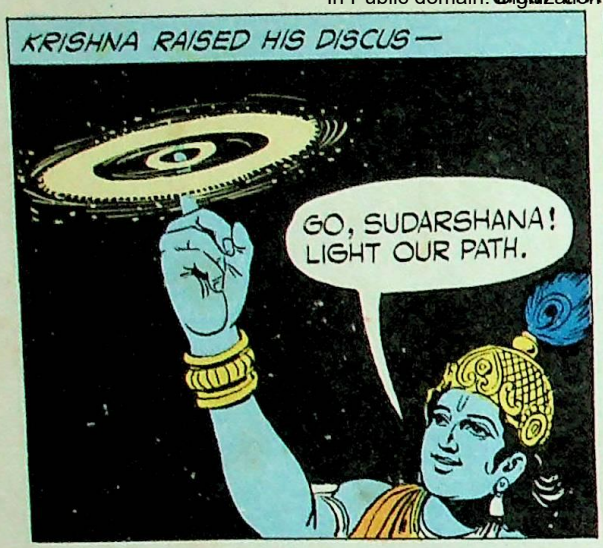

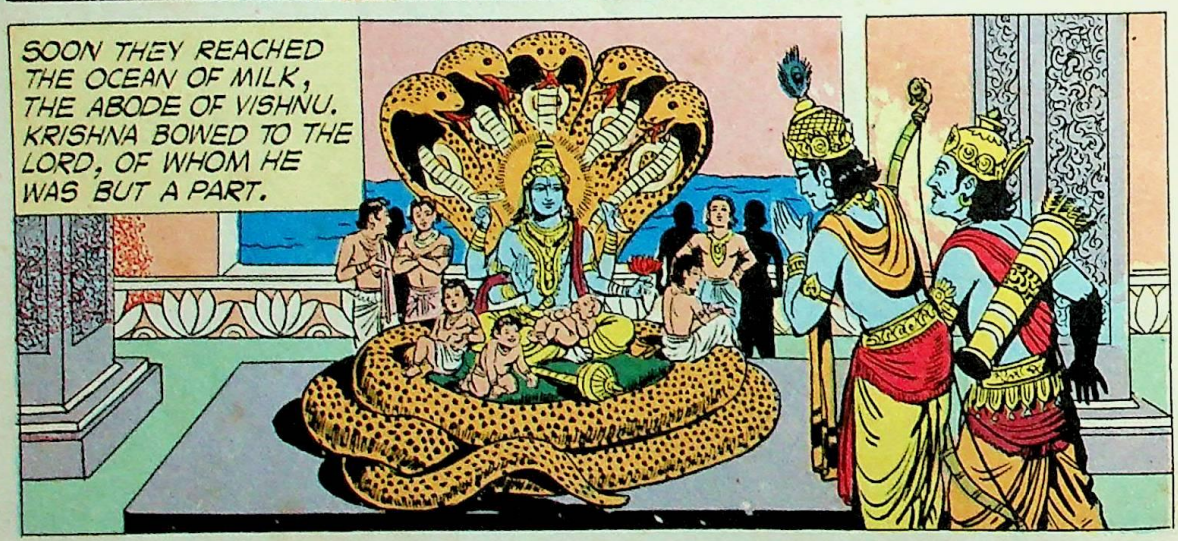

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AH! KRISHNA, YOU KNEW ALL ALONG THAT THEY WERE HERE! NO WONDER YOU WERE SILENT AND UNMOVED.

AND THEN ARJUNA REALISED WHY THIS WHOLE DRAMA HAD BEEN PLAYED.

O KRISHNA, I NOW UNDERSTAND. WHATEVER MANLINESS AND POWERS A MAN MAY HAVE, IT IS ALL THROUGH THE GRACE OF GOD. FORGIVE ME MY VANITY.

TAKING THEIR LEAVE OF VISHNU, KRISHNA AND ARJUNA PUT THE TEN SONS OF THE BRAHMAN IN THE CHARIOT AND LEFT FOR DWARAKA.

IT IS FAITH IN GOD AND HUMILITY THAT ULTIMATELY WINS OUR BATTLES FOR US, ARJUNA, NOT VANITY OR SKILL ALONE.

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Presenting the Amar Chitra Katha – *The Indian* EXPRESS Summer Bonanza !

The Amar Chitra Katha comics on Indian mythology, history and folklore - edited by Anant Pai (Uncle Pai to you), have been immensely popular for 25 years. Over 80 million copies in 14 languages have been sold so far.

As part of its reaching out programme, Amar Chitra Katha has joined hands with The Indian Express, India's leading daily, to bring you fun contests.

Quiz Contest, on Indian mythology and history, on May 24 at Patkar Hall, New Marine Lines. For Contest form and details, look up The Indian Express, Mumbai, of 10th & 17th May '97.

- **Participation limited to first 500 on a first-cum-first-served basis.**

PRELIMINARIES

- **Book-reading week, along with mono-acting and colouring contests at the following centres from May 16 to May 31 :**
  (Exact dates, timing and further details to be checked from the venues)

– The following venues are open to all children :-

1. 'Jalada', R.B.I. Officers' Quarters, Prabhadevi.
2. Shri Bansidhar Aggarwal Model School, 270 & 271, Nr. Wadala Market, Wadala (E).
3. National Society for Clear Cities – India, Children's Complex, 590, Ali Yavar Jung Marg, Bandra (E).
4. Bal Bhavan, Charni Road.
5. Kendriya Vidyalaya, I.I.T. Powai.
6. Kendriya Vidyalaya,1, Navy Nagar, Colaba.
7. Venus Apartments, Worli Sea face.
8. Swami Vivekanand High School, Sindhi Society, Chembur.
9. Jamuna Darshan, Bangur Nagar, Goregaon (W).
10. Shree Shivdham, New Link Road, Malad (W).
11. Girdhar Park, Mith Chowki, Malad (W).
12. Mangal Kalini, Siddharth Nagar, Goregaon (W).
13. Haridwar, Evershine Nagar, Malad (W).
14. Amit Apartments, 3rd Dadabhai Cross Road, Vile Parle (W).
15. Kalina Education Society's School, Kalina, Santacruz (E).

– The following venues are open only to their members/students :-

1. **Borivali Medical Brotherhood, Borivali (W).**
2. **O.N.G.C. Colony, Gokuldham-I.**
3. **Glaxo India Ltd, Thane & Worli.**
4. **Atomic Energy School No. 2, Anushaktinagar.**
5. **Avillion Greenfields Co-op. Hsg Soc. Ltd , Andheri (E).**
6. **S.I.E.S. High School, Matunga.**

FINALS

- **Mono-Acting and Colouring Contest** – 31st May, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., followed by a Sky Show at Nehru Planetarium, Worli.

For children in the age group 8-11 years (juniors) and 12-15 years (seniors).

The Indian EXPRESS
TELL IT LIKE IT IS

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

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MYSTERY OF THE Big Babol COMIC

Puja went to buy a Big Babol stick pack with Rs. 6/-. She came back with a Big Babol stick pack and a comic. How?
Bubbloo, Softy, Gummy, Bubbli and Biggo set out to solve the mystery.

Puja is narrating a story to Bubbli

I was reading a very exciting comic yesterday. It's a story about four brave children and their dog...

Will you lend it to me?

It's very special.

It's not for sale.

Where did you buy it?

Bubbli talking to her gang.

Puja has a very nice comic. But she won't tell us where she got it from.

Just then Puja arrives.

Bubbloo will you lend me Rs.6/-? I want to buy Big Babol.

Here you are.

Let's follow her.

Don't be silly. She's only going to buy Big Babol.

Okay, let's also have Big Babol.

Look! She's got a comic with a Big Babol stick pack.

At the shop

Sir, that girl paid you only for Big Babol. But she also took a comic.

You can too! Now you get a Big Babol comic **FREE** with every Big Babol stick pack. Hurry! There is a series of comics, but till stocks last.

Give us 5 Big Babol stick packs and five comics.

Yeah! Bow Wow!

McCann/PEH/263/97